

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /060 W
-----181631Z 122577 /42

R 181053Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2704
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2455

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE
SUBJECT: SARG COOPERATION WITH LEBANESE DRUZE

1. FOLLOWING VISIT OF KHALID JUMBLATT TO DAMASCUS FOR MEETING WITH FONMIN KHADDAM APRIL 3, WE WERE TOLD BY TWO SEPARATE SOURCES THAT JUMBLATT HAD INITIATED PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT TO DAMASCUS BY WALID JUMBLATT. SOURCE ADDED THAT SARG TRYING TO CO-OPT LEBANESE DRUZE FOLLOWERS OF LATE KAMAL JUMBLATT AND JUMBLATT'S PSP INTO MORE ACTIVE ROLE SUPPORTING PRES. SARKIS. RELIABLE SOURCE DESCRIBED WALID JUMBLATT AS MUCH MORE CONSERVATIVE POLITICALLY THAN HIS FATHER, AND OPINED HE WOULD CONCENTRATE ON HIS RELIGIOUS ROLE MORE THAN HIS POLITICAL ROLE AND MIGHT WELL DECLINE TO TAKE ANY ACTIVE ROLE IN PSP. IF THIS OCCURRED SOURCE BELIEVED THAT MANY DRUZE MEMBERS OF PARTY WOULD DRIFT AWAY SINCE THEIR ALLEGIENCE TO KAMAL JUMBLATT RATHER THAN PARTY OR IDEOLOGY. ACCORDING TO UK AMBASSADOR, JUMBLATT HAS ALREADY BEGUN TURNING AWAY CALLERS COMING FOR MONTHLY STIPENDS THEY USED TO RECEIVE FROM HIS FATHER, PLEADING LACK OF FUNDS.

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2. SYRIANS GAVE RED CARPET TREATMENT TO VISIT TO DRUZE SHEIKH ABU SHAQRA TO DAMASCUS APRIL 11. ABU SHAQRA WAS MET AT BORDER BY MINSTATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS ADIB MILHIM, WHO ACCOMPNAIED HIM TO PRES. ASAD'S OFFICE FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS CONCERNING LEBANESE SITUATION. FOLLOWING THEIR TALKS, ABU SHAQRA PRAISED ASAD'S "CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS TOWARD LEBANON AND ESPECIALLY TOWARD OUR COMMUNITY."

SYRIAN MEDIA DEVOTED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO ABU SHAQRA'S VISIT. SOURCE. SOURCE WHO COMES FROM LEBANESE DRUZE FAMILY AND KNOWS NUMBER OF LEADING DRUZE FIGURES TOLD US HE BELIEVED VISIT SHEIKH ABU SHAQRA IMPORTANT IN INSURING SMOOTH RELATIONS BETWEEN SARG AND LEANSESE/SYRIAN DRUZE COMMUNITY. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ASSERTED THAT SARG WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH HIS VISIT.

3. COMMENT: FOLLOWING DEATH OF KAMAL JUMBLATT, SYRIANS HAVE REDOUBLED THEIR EFFORTS TO COURT LEBANESE DRUZE COMMUNITY THROUGH THEIR PRINCIPAL RELIGIOUS AND CLAN LEADERS.
PELLETREAU

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: MOSLEMS, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, MINORITIES, TRADITIONAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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